

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL MBFR VIENNA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 170017

FOLLOWING REPEAT NATO 6959 ACTION SECSTATE SECDEF INFO BONN
CINCLANT USLOSACLANT USNMR SHAPE USCINCEUR DATED JUL 19:

QTE: S E C R E T NATO 06959

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON NORTHAG BRIGADE DEPLOYMENTS

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1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE WRITTEN BY RUEDIGER MONIAC AND
ENTITLED "TWO BRIGADES TO BE TRANSFERRED TO GERMANY"
APPEARED IN DIE WELT ON JULY 19, 1977. BEGIN TEXT:

BONN -- NATO WANTS TO BEEF UP ITS DEFENSE AGAINST SURPRISE
ATTACK IN CENTRAL EUROPE. FOR THIS PURPOSE THE U.S. WANTS
TO TRANSFER ANOTHER ARMORED INFANTRY BRIGADE WITH 400 (SIC)
MEN ACROSS THE ATLANTIC TO NORTHERN GERMANY. THE NETHER-
LANDS ALSO INTENDS TO PULL AN ARMY UNIT OF BRIGADE STRENGTH
OUT OF THE NETHERLANDS AND STATION IT ON THE NORTH GERMAN
PLAIN.

-- ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCES, THIS PLAN WAS DISCUSSED
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AT THE LAST MEETING OF NATO DEFENSE MINISTERS IN BRUSSELS
AND WAS GREETED WITH LIVELY AGREEMENT. THE PLAN IS PART OF
THE CATALOG OF 140 MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN NATO'S COMBAT
CAPABILITY, WHICH NATO'S COMMANDER GENERAL HAIG REFERRED
TO IN HIS MEETING WITH REPORTERS AT HIS HEADQUARTERS LAST
WEEK.

-- WITH THE MOVE, THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE ASSIGNING ITS THIRD NEW COMBAT UNIT TO WEST GERMANY IN THREE YEARS. THE FIRST WAS A BRIGADE THAT MOVED INTO QUARTERS IN WIESBADEN, THE SECOND A BRIGADE FOR WHICH INSTALLATIONS ARE NOW BEING READIED IN GARLSTEDT NORTH OF BREMEN. THAT BRIGADE IS TEMPORARILY HOUSED AT THE GRAFENWOEHR TRAINING AREA IN BAVARIA. THE THIRD BRIGADE IS TO BE PLACED WEST OF HANNOVER, ACCORDING TO NATO STAFF CONSIDERATIONS.

-- THE REALIZATION OF THIS PLAN DEPENDS CONSIDERABLY ON WHETHER THE U.S. AND THE FRG DEFENSE MINISTRY, TOGETHER WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF LOWER SAXONY, CAN FIND A SUITABLE SITE. CAUTIOUS INQUIRIES ARE ALREADY BEING UNDERTAKEN TO FIND A SITE. THE QUESTION OF FINANCING THE SO-CALLED INFRASTRUCTURE IS ALSO UNCLEAR. FOR THE GARLSTEDT PROJECT GERMAN TAX MONIES AMOUNTING TO SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION MARKS WERE NEEDED.

-- THE STATIONING OF THE DUTCH BRIGADE IN NORTHERN GERMANY FACES SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES. ACCORDING TO NATO PLANS, THIS UNIT IS TO BE STATIONED SOUTH OF THE BREMEN-HAMBURG AUTOBAHN. NEGOTIATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT HAVE NOT YET BEGUN. EXPERTS SAY THEY WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT BECAUSE NOT ONLY MUST LAND FOR HOUSING THE DUTCH TROOPS BE FOUND BUT ALSO A TRAINING AREA.

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-- THIS PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED SIMPLY IF THE BAOR WOULD ALLOW ONE OF ITS ONLY PARTIALLY OCCUPIED INSTALLATIONS TO BE USED BY THE DUTCH. THIS MATTER, HOWEVER, HAS NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED OFFICIALLY AT THE GOVERNMENT LEVEL.

-- THE PLANS FOR THESE UNIT TRANSFERS HAVE MET WITH WIDE AGREEMENT AMONG GOVERNMENT EXPERTS IN BONN. IN THUS STRENGTHENING THE FORWARD DEFENSE THESE EXPERTS SEE THE BEST MEANS BY WHICH TO RESPOND TO THE GROWING MILITARY POTENTIAL OF THE WARSAW PACT.

END TEXT.

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2. THE ABOVE TEXT IS AN INFORMAL MISSION TRANSLATION.

3. WE RECEIVED A QUERY ON THIS ARTICLE FROM CARL HARTMAN OF THE AP THIS AFTERNOON. THE NATO PRESS OFFICE HAS RECEIVED 5 OR 6 CALLS. WE UNDERSTAND SHAPE AND EUCOM ARE RECEIVING SIMILAR QUERIES.

4. THE NATO PRESS OFFICE IS RESPONDING WITH A NO COMMENT ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE THIRD US BRIGADE AND IS REFERRING

QUESTIONS ON THE DUTCH BRIGADE TO THE HAGUE. FYI: THE HAGUE IS SAYING FOR THE RECORD THAT NO SUCH DECISION HAS BEEN MADE BUT IS TELLING SELECTED REPORTERS ON BACKGROUND THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE TAKING PLACE. END FYI.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PRESS GUIDANCE BY OOB JULY 20, 1977 ON THE POSSIBLE DEPLOYMENT OF A THIRD US BRIGADE. BENNETT UNQTE VANCE

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